

REMARKS

This is further to applicants' Amendment and Reply filed on June 22, 2004. Applicants request favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-16 which were pending in the application, only claims 9-15 were rejected. By way of this amendment, Applicants hereby cancel claims 9-15 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 16 are respectfully submitted for reconsideration. These claims are all allowed.

1. Priority Document

Pursuant to applicants' Reply filed June 22, 2004, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge that the certified copy of the priority document has been received (*i.e.*, box 12(a)(1) in the Office Action Summary was left unchecked).

2. Rejection of Claims 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

Claims 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 "as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention." By way of this amendment, these claims have been canceled purely to expedite prosecution.

CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED REGARDING THIS APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. SHOULD NO PROPER PAYMENT BE ENCLOSED HEREWITH, AS BY A CHECK BEING IN THE WRONG AMOUNT, UNSIGNED, POST-DATED, OTHERWISE IMPROPER OR INFORMAL OR EVEN ENTIRELY MISSING, THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE THE UNPAID AMOUNT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741. IF ANY EXTENSIONS OF TIME ARE NEEDED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF PAPERS SUBMITTED HEREWITH, APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR SUCH EXTENSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 AND AUTHORIZES PAYMENT OF ANY SUCH EXTENSIONS FEES TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741.